

Intermittent Fever
The Intermittent Fever is a disease, which consists of fits or paroxysms, which are distinct from each other. I have essayed the cold, hot and sweating type on many occasions with the following result.
Intermittent Fever is between
Respectfully submitted the length of
the disease
To the Faculty of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania the day and
month two on the last.

Sic pro 28th day of January 1853
began by Joshua B. Stretch in body
headache, etc of Pennsylvania
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bness of the fingers and toes.

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Intermittent Fever

Intermittent Fever is a disease, which consists of fits or paroxysms, which are divided into three distinct stages; called the cold, hot, and sweating: these paroxysms occur with considerable periodicity, the interval between each is called the Apyrexia. The length of the Apyrexia marks the type of the disease, if it is of twenty four hours continuance, it is the Quotidian; forty eight the Tertian; and seventy two the Quartan.

The premonitory symptoms are lassitude, languor, a sense of weariness over the body, headache, stupor, pain in the loins and extremities, blueness of the nails, and a numbness of the fingers and toes.

Cold Stage.—After these symptoms have continued for a short time, the extremities

begin to feel cold, which soon spreads over the whole body becoming intensely distressing; causing a sensation as though cold water was running down the back, this feeling of coldness becomes almost insupportable; there is chattering of the teeth, hurried, anxious and oppressed respiration; the pulse is variable, may be weak and oppressed, quick and intermitting, or scarcely perceptible; there is headache, and in severe cases coma or delirium. The eyes sunken, the features become sharp, complexion livid; rigors of children sometimes run on to convulsions: the duration of this stage is from a few minutes to four hours, terminating in the hot stage sometimes by vomiting or nausea.

Hot Stage.— Is characterized by hot

and dry skin, dry mouth with thirst, full, strong and frequent pulse, scanty deep coloured urine without sediment, hurried and anxious breathing, occasionally cerebral disturbances with delirium, this continues from four to twelve hours.

Sweating Stage.—This manifests itself by the appearance perspiration on the forehead, which is soon diffused over other parts of the body, often becoming profuse and drenching. There is now a marked amelioration of the previous symptoms, which continues until relief takes place and the apresia supervenes.

These different stages are liable to much variation, one in severity may predominate over the others, there may be a slight development or disproportioned continuance

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of the different stages, yet by the distinct character and periodicity of the paroxysms, the diagnosis of the disease is a matter of but little difficulty.

During the Apyrexia the patient often enjoys an entire freedom from pain or any troublesome symptoms, except debility, languor and loss of appetite; unless the disease should have continued a long time, or be complicated with some other affection.

These fevers are sometimes of such an intractible character, as to baffle the best directed efforts of the Physician for some length of time; often passing into a chronic form: yet it is said there is a tendency of the disease to terminate spontaneously, after a certain number of paroxysms; provided they are of a simple and

regular character: Iuotidians have a disposition to terminate on the seventh day, Tertiarians on the fourteenth, and Quartans on the forty second day. There is likewise a tendency to relapses, at these periods of the disease, should they not have been radically cured at the commencement of the treatment.

Intermittent Fever may be complicated with other affections, or the disease may pass into nervous, inflammatory or remittent fever and become fatal; but of themselves they are rarely so in temperate climates. In hot latitudes they often assume a highly malignant and fatal character. In their mild form they sometimes inflict much injury to the constitution, by the debility they produce, by obstructions

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and induration of the liver and spleen, and by their tendency to the production of dropsical affections. If death takes place as the effect of the disease itself, it is from collapse, from an absence of perspiration or a state of apoplexy.

The most prominent cause, is the miasmata arising from the decay of vegetable matter during hot weather, in low and marshy countries, from stagnant pools of water, along the banks of rivers, from the exposure of the virgin soil of Western and Prairie lands by cultivation, or from the exposure of large quantities of silicious matter, during excavations for rail road cellars &c. It may also arise from exposure to cold and wet, errors in diet, and from intestinal irritation.

As a general thing, remedies in this affection should be administered during the apyrexia and mouth, with cold water.

The following are some of the medicines called for in this disease— Cinchona, Arsenicum album, Specacuanha, Nucouica, Pulsatilla, Natrum Muriaticum, Ignatia, Antimonium crudum, Eupatorium perfoliatum, Carbo vegetabilis, Lachesis, and Bryonia. and when it occurs

Cinchona.— Is applicable to those fevers, which have their origin in marsh miasmas. It is indicated where there is languor, headache, anxiety and palpitation of the heart, nausea, and pain in the bowels before or at the commencement of the fever; adypisia during the cold and hot stage, with thirst during the sweating and sometimes

during the apyrexia; alternate shiverings
and heat; heat in the head, dry and
burning lips and mouth, with sedness and
heat in the face; frequently with chilliness
in all other parts of the body: cold sweat
on the forehead, great weakness during
and after the paroxysms, yellow com-
plexion, pain, soreness or swelling of the
liver or spleen. It is applicable to those of
a tertian type, and when it occurs
endemically. ~~such as~~ This medicine like
~~one~~ Arsenicum Album. - Is indicated
where the paroxysms are well marked
in regard to their periodicity, but where
the different stages are not well devel-
oped, there being a mingling or alternating
of the sensations of the cold and hot stage,
often with more or less delay of the

appearance of perspiration. There is restlessness, much thirst with an inclination to drink but little at a time, flushes of heat on speaking or moving; depression and prostration of strength, violent burning pain in the stomach with nausea and vomiting. Is suitable to fevers of the tertian or quartan type, and where the rigors come on in the afternoon or evening.

Specacuanha.— This medicine like Timchoua, is well adapted to fevers occurring in marshy districts. The particular indications are an aggravation of shivering by external heat, much shivering with little heat, or much heat with little shivering; there is but little thirst, considerable gastric derangement with dryness of the mouth,

nausea, vomiting, clean or coated tongue, and some oppression of the chest. It is not always capable of effecting a cure within itself, yet it so changes or modifies the disease, that it readily yields to some other remedy.

Nux vomica.—Where there is weakness and prostration at the commencement of the fever, where the chills and heat are commingled, heat in the face with coldness of the rest of the body, burning pain in the eyes, with giddiness of the head; trembling of the limbs with cramps in the calves of the legs and feet, coldness and blueness of the hands and feet, headache and humming in the ears during the heat, heat in the face with redness of the cheeks, thirst during the shivering and heat. Gastric

derangement such as anorexia, dislike to bread, bitter and sour eructations, where there is constipation; and where the paroxysms take place in the morning and are of the Quotidian or Tertian type.

Pulsatilla.—This remedy is applicable where there is a complication with gastric or bilious symptoms, where the patient has been improperly treated with large doses of Cinchona; where the slightest indigestion causes a relapse, and to those of a Tertian type; is suitable to females and to persons of a mild disposition. The particular indications are bitter taste in the mouth, slimy, bilious or sour vomiting, diarrhoea or constipation, violent thirst during the heat, simultaneous shivering and heat, anxiety and oppression of the chest.

Natrium Muriaticum.—Where there is prolonged shivering, thirst during both the cold and hot stage, headache pain in the bones, debility, sallow complexion, ulcerations in the corners of the mouth, dryness of the tongue, with bitter taste; with much tenderness of the scrofulculus to the touch. followed by nausea and

Sanguinaria.—Where there is a mitigation of cold by the application of external heat, thirst during the chills, shivering with colic, afterwards weakness and sleepiness with burning heat; alternate redness and paleness of the face, and when the fever comes on in the afternoon or at night.

Antimonium crudum.—Is indicated where the perspiration breaks out simultaneously with accesses of heat, then

suddenly disappearing leaving the skin dry and hot; where there is slight thirst, coated tongue, bitter taste, eructations, want of appetite, and to those of the Persian type.

Eupatorium Perfoliatum.—When the chills come on in the morning or forenoon, attended or followed by nausea and vomiting, where the perspiration is slight or altogether wanting, thirst before the chill, aching of the bones of the extremities with soreness of the flesh.

Carbo vegetabilis.—Is indicated when throbbing at the temples, aching of the teeth and bones of the extremities, and coldness of the feet precede the paroxysm: thirst only during

the shivering; and for those which have been generated in warm and swampy countries up to the impatience of the

~~Lachesis.~~ — During the heat, violent headache, delirium, redness of the face, great thirst, great weakness and rapid prostration of strength during the apoplectic; heat at night with perspiration in the morning.

~~Bryonia~~ Predominance of heat followed by shivering; headache, vertigo, thickly coated tongue, aversion to food, nausea with excessive thirst.

These are some of the most important remedies in this disease, yet the whole morbid picture of each individual case should be well considered, and in doing this a great

variety of remedies may be consulted.
It has given the Physician much trouble
partly owing to the impatience of the
patient and in a great many instances
to the want of proper action of the remedies
This disease is the effect of some un-
ponderable miasms on the organism and
in nature there certainly can be found
~~and~~ antidote